

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PRAGUE 00437 161602Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SS-15 NSC-05
PRS-01 PA-01 USIE-00 SCA-01 INRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07
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O 161555Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2098

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 0437

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, CZ
SUBJECT: MFA REJECTS EMBASSY PROTEST RE HOFFMANN DETENTION

1. ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER VEJVODA RATHER HURRIEDLY CALLED ME IN TODAY TO STATE THAT AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH HIS GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP, HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO REJECT THE EMBASSY'S PROTEST OF THE PERVIOUS DAY OVER CZECHOSLOVAK BORDER GUARDS' DETENTION OF NY TIMES CORRESPONDENT PAUL HOFFMANN FEBRUARY 12-13. HE NOTED AMBASSADOR JOHANES HAD TAKEN SAME POSITION IN MEETING WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARMITAGE (STATE 033548). INTERESTINGLY, VEVJODA DID NOT RETURN EMBASSY'S NOTE ON THE SUBJECT.

2. I EXPRESSED DEEP DISAPPOINTMENT THAT GOC HAD DECIDED TO TAKE THIS POSITION ON THE HOFMANN CASE, INDICATED GOC VERSION OF EVENTS AT CESKE VELENICE WAS IMPLAUSIBLE, AND REPEATEDLY REMINDED VEJVODA THAT GOC ACTIONS VIOLATED THE CSCE FINAL ACT AND THAT US TREATMENT OF FOREIGN JOURNALISTS IS BASED SQUARELY ON RECIPROCITY OF TREATMENT TOWARD US JOURNALISTS ABROAD.

3. SEPTTEL FOLLOWS.
BYNE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Sent Date: 16-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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